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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,728	11/26/2003	Prathyusha K. Salla	139947YOD GEMS:0257	9781
68174	7590	01/29/2008	EXAMINER	
GE HEALTHCARE c/o FLETCHER YODER, PC P.O. BOX 692289 HOUSTON, TX 77269-2289			LAMPRECHT, JOEL	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3737		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		01/29/2008	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	CT
	10/723,728	SALLA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joel M. Lamprecht	3737	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 May 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/19/07</u> | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hossack et al (US 6,014,473). Hossack et al discloses a method and apparatus for determining motion vectors and imaging an organ including the acquisition of three sets of one-dimensional motion data along perpendicular axes (Col 5 Line 44-Col 6 Line 41, Fig 27g, Figure 17 and Col 17 Line 49-Col 18 Line 18), combination of vectors for three-dimensional representation of the motion of a target area or organ (Fig 43, Col 31 Line 47-Col 32 Line 10, Col 23 Line 1-64, Col 17 Line 25-48, Figure 6-11), where the acquisition of data includes a set of one or more sensors (Col 4 Line 20-57), where the acquisition of motion vectors includes deriving data from an imager to acquire motion data via ultrasonic sensors (Col 4 Line 58-Col 5 Line 33, Col 9 Line 10-55, Col 21 Line 50- Col 22 Line 35), including that of pre-acquisition and acquisition data (Col 9 Line 10-55, Col 11 Line 65-Col 12 Line 20), as well as reconstructed and non-reconstructed data (Col 12 Line 11-20, Col 12 Line 43-65, Col 9 Line 10-Col 10 Line 24, Col 10 Line 25-50, Col 5 Line 20-43, Col 29 Line 65-Col 30 Line 16). The methodology for acquisition of data is constant over at least two axes (Col 5 Line 45- Col 6 Line 51), uses ultrasound sensors to acquire imaging data for the motion estimation (Col 5 Line 45-65, Figure 6-11) and validates data using data processing circuitry and a workstation (Col 10 Line 10-55, Col 11 Line 10-53, Col 23 Line 1-Col 24 Line 63).

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2. Regarding claim 42, although the structures are not identical, the imaging system provided by Hossack et al is fully capable and designed for acquiring three sets of one-dimensional motion data, deriving motion vectors, and combining vectors for the purpose of generating three-dimensional motion data for a target.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joel M. Lamprecht whose telephone number is (571) 272-3250. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (571)272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ruth S. Smith/
Ruth S. Smith
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3737

JML